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August 14, 2001

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Sunil Pandit, Ph.D.  
353 W Side Drive  
Apartment 202  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878-3028

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Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application Serial No. 09/834,597 of Tim Keith et al.  
NOVEL HUMAN GENE RELATING TO RESPIRATORY DISEASES, OBESITY,  
AND INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE  
SPC Ref.: LI01385K; GTC Ref.: HUM00-03; M&F Ref.: 2976-4039US1

Dear Dr. Pandit:

We have been retained to prosecute and handle all matters related to the above-referenced patent application in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

We are writing to inform you that declaration and assignment documents signed and dated by all of the named inventors must be filed in this application. As you are a named co-inventor for the patent application, we are forwarding to you a declaration document, assignment document, and a copy of the patent application and figures as filed in the Patent Office.

For the declaration document, we kindly request that you read the patent application and declaration, and sign, date, and indicate citizenship where shown on page 6. For the assignment document, we ask that you read the assignment, and sign and date the document where shown on page 6, if possible, in the presence of a Notary Public.

We kindly request that you return the signed and completed assignment and declaration documents to Morgan & Finnegan, L.L.P. by return Federal Express delivery. For your convenience, we have provided a self-addressed return Federal Express envelope for your use in sending us the completed documents.

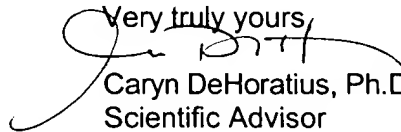
We will call you to ensure that you have received the application and declaration papers. We will expect to receive the signed and dated declaration within five (5) days after you have received it. Your prompt response is sincerely appreciated.

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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If you need additional time to complete the assignment document, you may send back the assignment by Federal Express, at our expense, after the declaration has been executed and returned.

If you should have any questions concerning our request, or concerning any of the enclosed materials, please do not hesitate to call me at the above-listed direct-dial telephone number. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,  
  
Caryn DeHoratius, Ph.D.  
Scientific Advisor

CD:ah  
Enclosures  
cc: Richard C. Komson, Esq.  
Leslie A. Serunian, Ph.D.